



translation of portions of an official action by a foreign examiner. A copy of the official action is enclosed. The relevance to the pending U.S. patent application is that the references were cited in a foreign patent application corresponding to the above-captioned U.S. patent application. However, no independent analysis of the references, the accuracy of the statement of the foreign examiner or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of that country or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the translation of the foreign examiner's comments submitted herewith.

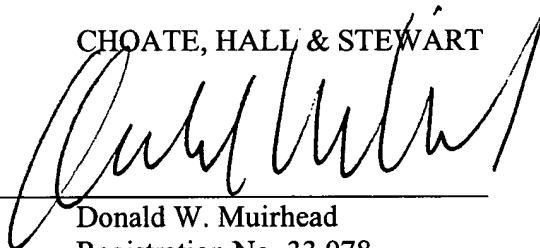
The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the space adjacent to each document on the PTO-1449 form and return a copy of the PTO-1449 form to confirm that these documents have been considered by the Examiner and made of record in this application.

Although we believe that we have appropriately provided for any fees due in connection with this submission, the Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any deficiencies to/from our **Deposit Account No. 031721**. Two originally-executed copies of this form are being submitted.

Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (617) 248-4038.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 28, 2003

Date

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